

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 21, 25, 29 and 33 are amended. Support for the amendments to these claims may be found, for example, in FIGS. 4 and 5 and in the corresponding description in the specification. No new matter has been added. After entry of this Amendment, claims 21-36 will remain pending in the patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested. Since this Amendment is being presented together with a Request for Continued Examination, entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Nakamura (U.S. Publ. No. 2001/0051930). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 21 is patentable over Nakamura at least because this claim recites a method of controlling a device connected to a network, the device being configured to handle both a first control command sent from the network and a second control command sent from an operation unit being independent of the network, and the device having a capability of controlling oneself as well as a capability of being controlled by a different device connected to the network, wherein, *inter alia*, even in the second mode, said device is configured to reject a control command if this command is not sent from the registered device, the rejection of the control command being independent of a password. Nakamura does not disclose, teach or suggest this feature. Therefore, Nakamura does not teach each and every feature recited by claim 21 and, as a result, cannot anticipate claim 21.

Nakamura discloses an information processing apparatus for controlling an electronic device connected to a network, including a device attribute information obtaining part for obtaining device attribute information about the electronic device from the electronic device through the network. (See paragraph 10). Nakamura further discloses that conditional rejection of control commands of the electronic device are based on a password. (See FIG. 8 and paragraph 134). However, Nakamura is completely silent about rejecting a control command if this command is not sent from the registered device. Furthermore, Nakamura is completely silent about the rejection of the control command being independent of a password. Therefore claim 21 is patentable over Nakamura. Claims 22-24 depend from claim 21 and are allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons related to claim 21 and for the additional features recited therein.

Similarly, claims 25-28 are patentable over Nakamura for at least the same reasons provided above related to claim 21 and for the additional features recited therein. Namely, claims 25-28 are patentable at least because these claims recite a method of controlling a device connected to a network, said device being configured to handle both a first control command sent from the network and a second control command sent from an operation unit being independent of the network, and said device having a capability of controlling oneself as well as a capability of being controlled by a different device connected to said network, wherein, *inter alia*, in the first mode, said device is configured to reject a control command if this command is not sent from the registered device, the rejection of the control command being independent of a password. As mentioned previously, Nakamura requires the inputting of a password to control the device. Therefore, claims 25-28 are allowable.

Furthermore, claim 29 is patentable for at least the same reasons provided above in connection with claim 21 and for the additional features recited therein. Namely, claim 29 is patentable over Nakamura at least because this claim recites an apparatus connectable, via a serial bus, to a device being configured to provide one or more control commands, said apparatus comprising, *inter alia*, a fifth portion configured to reject the control command from an unregistered device, even in the second mode, the rejection of the control command being independent of a password. As mentioned previously, conditional rejection of control commands of the electronic device in Nakamura are based on a password. Nakamura makes no mention about a rejection of a control command being independent of a password. Claims 30-32 depend from claim 29 and are allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons related to claim 29 and for the additional features recited therein.

Similarly, claims 33-36 are patentable over Nakamura for at least the same reasons provided above related to claims 21 and 29 and for the additional features recited therein. Namely, claims 33-36 are patentable at least because these claims recite an apparatus connectable, via a serial bus, to a device being configured to provide one or more control commands, said apparatus comprising, *inter alia*, a fourth portion configured to reject the control command from an unregistered device in the first mode, the rejection of the control command being independent of a password. As noted above, Nakamura does not teach or suggest this feature. Therefore, claims 33-36 are allowable.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Nakamura are respectfully requested.

The rejection having been addressed, Applicants request issuance of a notice of allowance indicating the allowability of all pending claims. If anything further is necessary

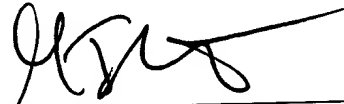
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to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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